

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /039 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP
APPROVED BY EA/P:WMAGRUDER
----- 035224

R 292357Z OCT 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
TRSY
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
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AMCONSUL DANANG
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AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
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CINCPAC
COGARD
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 29 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

POLICE SCUFFLED MONDAY WITH ABOUT 50 BUDDHIST NUNS WHO
TRIED TO MARCH OUT OF SAIGON COMPOUND WITH BANNERS
DEMANDING CIVIL LIBERTIES (AP, NYDN). POLICE CORDONED
OFF THREE DOWNTOWN BLOCKS WITH BARBED WIRE AND JEEPS
IN ANTICIPATION OF DEMONSTRATION THAT DID NOT MATERIALIZE.
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OTHER AREAS ALSO CLOSED OFF INCLUDE BLOCK WHERE NGO BA
THANH RESIDES AND PAGODA IN SLUM AREA WHERE GROUP OF
MILITANT BUDDHIST NUNS LIVES. MRS. THANH LAY DOWN BEHIND
BARBED WIRE BARRICADE TO PROTEST POLICE ACTION.

AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY PLAN TO CORDON OFF AREA NEAR NATL ASSEMBLY THROUGH NOV 1 NATIONAL DAY, ANNIVERSARY OF DIEM OVERTHROW, SINCE SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTEDLY PLANNED- IN PDDTION, ON PAPERS THAT PUBLANAGEMPRIEST'S OF SEVERAL OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS THAT PUBLISHEDPRIEST'S "INDICTMENT" OF THIEU WILL BEGIN, AND GROUP OF VOLUNTEER DEFENSE LAWYERS HOPE TO TURN CASE INTO TRIAL OF REGIME (MARKHAM, NYT).

MCCOMBS (WP) NOTES GROUP OF US VETS IS IN SAIGON AT GVN INVITATION FOR NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS. SOME ARE EX-POWS, INCLUDING ADM MCCAIN'S SON. MOST APPEAR UN-

CONCERNED WITH PROTESTS. ONE SUGGESTS PEOPLE IN US DON'T WANT TO READ ABOUT VN ANY MORE. GROUP SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH ACTING INFO MINISTER NHA AND LATER WITH THIEU. CORRESPONDENT TOLD ONE VET THAT SOME DISABLED VETS WANT TO SEE THEM "BUT THE GOVERNMENT WON'T LET THEM." ONE US VET SEES PROTESTS AS "NOTHING."

MCCOMBS BELIEVES SITUATION WILL BE TURBULENT IF ANTI-GVN GROUPS BRING OFF MANY DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FOR WEEK LEADING UP TO NATL DAY; BUT NOTICES GOVT HAS BEGUN WHAT APPEARS LARGE-SCALE ATTEMPT TO THWART PROTESTS BY ISOLATING AND HARASSING LEADERS. ALSO SEES MASSIVE POLICE PRESENCE IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON, WITH STREETS BLOCKED TO CONTROL POTENTIAL DEMONSTRATIONS. REPORTS RC PRIEST AND BUDDHIST MONK ESCORTED INTO NATL ASSEMBLY BY OPPOSITION DEPUTIES DENOUNCED THIEU AS DICTATOR, CHARGED THEIR OFFICES AND PAGODAS ARE SURROUNDED BY POLICE, AND SAID MANY ANTI-GVN STUDENTS SECRETLY ARRESTED. QUOTES SEVERAL ANTI-GOVT DEPUTIES THAT POLICE CRACKDOWN IS WIDESPREAD, WITH MANY OPPOSITION LEADERS UNDER HOUSE ARREST OR CONSTANT POLICE SURVEILLANCE. ADDS THAT NHA IN RECENT SPEECH STATED THAT HIS RESIGNATION IS "JUST A POLITICAL ACT" AND THAT HIS POLICIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE CARRIED OUT.
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SHELL OIL, OPERATOR OF JOINT DRILLING VENTURE WITH CITIES SERVICE, SAYS OIL AND GAS FOUND IN SOUTH CHINA SEA OFF SVN. FURTHER DRILLING PLANNED TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF FIND AND EVALUATE COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS. THIS IS SECOND TEST WELL DRILLED IN AREA BY SHELL. FIRST FOUND TRACES OF HYDROCARBONS LAST AUG BUT WAS ABANDONED BECAUSE NOT CONSIDERED PRODUCTIVE. LATEST FIND IS 214 MILES SOUTH OF VUNG TAU AND HAS APPRECIABLE OIL AND GAS FLOW. SHELL INTENDS TO DRILL SEVERAL ADDITIONAL EXPLORATORY WELLS (WSJ).

2. KOREA

AP (SEOUL) REPORTS POLICE USED TEAR GAS AGAINST 2,000 EHYA WOMEN'S U COEDS MONDAY AS THOUSANDS OF OTHER STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST GOVT OF FOUR UNIVERSITIES. O INJURIES OR ARRESTS REPORTED (PHINQ). WP'S OBERDORFER SAYS EHYA AND KOREA U HAVE DECIDED TO SUSPEND CLASSES AGAIN TO AVOID GOVT SHUTDOWN ORDER. NOTES THAT, FOR MOMENT AT LEAST, GOVT HAS BACKED DOWN TO KOREA JOURNALISTS' DEMAND FOR RIGHT TO CONTINUE SUCH NEWS AS ANTI-GOVT PROTESTS.

OBERDORFER REPORTS THAT IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, GROUP OF

US CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES MET MONDAY NIGHT WITH AMB SNEIDER TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT SCHEDULED VISIT BY PRES FORD. IN STATEMENT READ SNEIDER FOR TRANSMISSION TO WH, THEY ASKED FORD "CLEARLY COMMUNICATE" TO PARK REQUEST THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS BE SET FREE AND MARTIAL-LAW CONSTITUTION BE JETTISONED; THEY ALSO ASKED FORD SCHEDULE MEETINGS WITH SK OPPOSITION POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LEADERS IN ADDITION TO PARK AND OTHER GOVT LEADERS. THESE AND OTHER REQUESTS WERE MADE BY FIVE MISSIONARIES WHO INITIATED SESSION; EIGHT OTHERS CALLED TO MEETING BY AMEMBASSY REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS ACCORDING OBERDORFER.

WESTINGHOUSE SAYS IT HAS CONTRACTED TO BUILD 600,000-KILOWATT NUCLEAR-POWER PLANT NEAR PUSAN FOR KOREA UNCLASSIFIED

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ELECTRIC CO (WSJ).

3. CHINA

MAIL AND GLOBE'S JOHN BURNS IN PEKING (WP, CSM) DOES FEATURE ON HIGH COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA, CITING CASE OF TWO AUSSIE COMPANIES THAT GAVE CHINESE 320,000 DOLS WORTH OF LIVESTOCK EARLIER THIS MONTH BUT WERE GIVEN HANDLING BILLS TOTALING NEARLY 15,000 DOLS. LIVESTOCK WERE CENTER OF ATTENTION AT AUSTRALIAN TRADE FAIR THAT CLOSED THIS WEEK; CHINESE SIGNED CONTRACTS VALUED AT MORE THAN 1.25 MILLION DOLS - BUT GOT ANIMALS FREE. LARGEST SINGLE BILL, ACCOUNTING FOR MOST OF NEARLY 15,000 DOLS, WAS FOR TRANSPORTING ANIMALS FROM PEKING'S AIRPORT TO A COMMUNE OUTSIDE CITY AND THENCE TO FAIR SITE - DISTANCE LESS THAN 30 MILES. ABOUT 60 TRUCKS SENT TO AIRPORT, THOUGH FEWER USED. OTHER BILLS INCLUDED ONE FOR 1,000 DOLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CORRAL AT FAIR SITE, 550 DOLS FOR 650 FEET OF ROPE USED IN ROUNDING UP ANIMALS. BILLS HAVE BEEN BITTERLY RECEIVED. OFFICIALS OF TWO COMPANIES ARE HOPING THERE HAS BEEN BUREAUCRATIC MISTAKE; MEANWHILE, THEY ARE STALLING PAYMENT.

BURNS CITES OTHER CASES OF HIGH COST OF DOING BUSINESS AND CONDUCTING TRADE FAIRS IN CHINA. SAYS OFFICIAL RATIONALE FOR FAIRS IS THAT THEY ARE ONLY EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING A COUNTRY'S TRADE POTENTIAL TO ELUSIVE CHINESE TRADING ORGS THAT MAKE PURCHASING DECISIONS. BEHIND THIS LIES ASSUMPTION THAT LONG-TERM MARKET IS TOO LUCRATIVE TO MISS. HOWEVER, MANY DIPLOMATS IN PEKING SENSE THAT RECENT PURCHASES - DOZENS OF UK AND US AIRCRAFT, COMPLETE STEEL MILLS FROM GERMANY AND JAPAN, PETRO-CHEMICAL PLANTS FROM JAPAN AND FRANCE - GAVE MISLEADING IMPRESSION OF MARKET POTENTIAL AND THUS OF TRADE FAIRS'

VALUE. CITES WESTERN DIPLOMAT: "LET'S NOT FORGET THAT CHINA WITH ITS 800 MILLION PEOPLE IS BUYING ABOUT AS MUCH ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET AS TAIWAN WITH ITS 15 MILLION. THE CHINESE BUY ONLY WHAT THEY CANNOT MAKE FOR THEMSELVES-- AND ONLY FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES THEM TO LEARN OUR TECHNIQUES AND COPY THEM."
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4. JAPAN

HALLORAN (NYT), IN TOKYO, REPORTS TANAKA DEPARTED CITY OCTOBER 28 ON 12-DAY TOUR OF AUSTRALIA,NZ AND BURMA, AS DOUBTS GROW THAT HE WILL SURVIVE IN OFFICE MUCH LONGER. NOTES TANAKA IS UNDER FIRE WITHIN OWN PARTY OVER CHARGES THAT HE ENRICHED HIMSELF IN OFFICE, UNETHICALLY OR ILLEGALLY; HIS PUBLIC SUPPORT IS AT RECORD POST-WAR LOW, MAINLY FOR NOT CHECKING INFLATION; AND LEFT-WING FORCES ARE ATTACKING GOJ "FOR PERMITTING US WARSHIPS TO BRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO JAPAN TEMPORARILY."

HALLORAN NOTES THAT RUMOR TANAKA MIGHT STEP DOWN AFTER FORD VISIT EMERGED OVER WEEKEND, FOLLOWING HIS SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH LDP LEADERS OF KIND WHICH PRECEDE MAJOR POLITICAL DECISIONS. TANAKA'S OPTIONS APPEAR: AGREE TO RESIGN AFTER FORD VISIT, TRY RESHUFFLE CABINET TO RESTORE PARTY UNITY, OR DISSOLVE LOWER HOUSE TO TAKE CASE TO VOTERS. LATTER TWO DO NOT APPEAR VIABLE ALTERNATIVES, SINCE UNLIKELY TANAKA COULD GAIN SUPPORT OF FUKUDA FOR CABINET RESHUFFLE, AND SINCE LDP IN TROUBLE NOT ONLY WITH VOTERS BUT WITH BUSINESS SUPPORTERS WHO RECENTLY CUT POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

EMBASSY OFFICIALS SAY PLANS FOR FORD VISIT ARE GOING AHEAD.

PHINQ REPORTS POLICE INSTRUCTED TO MAINTAIN TIGHT SECURITY DURING FORD VISIT, AS MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES AND ORGANIZED LEFT INTENSIFY CAMPAIGN AGAINST IT. RADICAL GROUPS REMAIN SILENT. GOJ SOURCES DENY FORD VISIT MIGHT BE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF GROWING SUSPICION

THAT GOVT PERMITS US WARSHIPS TO BRING NUKES IN. TANAKA
FACING WORST POLITICAL CRISIS SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN
1972, WITH PARTY LEADERS MEETING TO DETERMINE HIS FATE
AS HE LEAVES ON 12-DAY TRIP. FUKUDA TELLS NEWSMEN
"RAPID DEVELOPMENTS" ARE TAKING PLACE AND "CRUCIAL
MOMENT IS NEARING."

LACHICA (CSM) REPORTS THAT LEFTIST PROTESTS AGAINST
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ALLEGED DEPLOYMENT OF US NUKES INTO JAPAN MAY DARKEN
CLIMATE FOR FORD VISIT. MORE UNSETTLING, HOWEVER,

IS RAPIDLY SPREADING MOVES WITHIN LDP TO FORCE TANAKA
TO STEP DOWN BEFORE HIS TERM EXPIRES NEXT YEAR.
RECENT WATERGATE-STYLE DISCLOSURES OF FINANCIAL DEALS
FORCED TANAKA TO MAKE UNUSUAL GESTURE OF CALLING
ON PARTY ELDERS BEFORE LEAVING ON TRIP MONDAY. DEVELOP-
MENTS MAY DETRACT FROM OTHERWISE PROFUSE WELCOME FOR FORD,
BUT LACHICA DOES NOT FEEL THEY ARE LIKELY TO FORCE
CANCELLATION OF PRES VISIT, SHORT OF TOTAL BREAKDOWN
IN GOJ COMPOSURE.

DESPITE SUPERFICIAL SIMILARITY OF PRESENT SITUATION TO
LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATION OF EISENHOWER VISIT BY KISHI
DURING RIOTS OVER RATIFICATION OF MST, LACHICA NOTES
LACK OF MASS HYSTERIA TODAY, WHICH IN 1960 SENT STUDENTS
TO STREETS WITH BAMBOO STAVES AND BROUGHT MASSES TO
DIET. CITES DISAPPOINTING TURN-OUT FOR ANTI-WAR DAY
RALLIES OCT. 21, AND DOUBTS THAT WELL-FED, RELATIVELY
AFFLUENT JAPANESE TODAY COULD BE INDUCED TO RIOT AS
IN 1960.

LACHICA QUOTES LONG-TIME AMERICAN RESIDENT SAYING
JAPANESE WOULD CHOOSE TO PROVIDE FORD TRADITIONAL
HOSPITALITY, RATHER THAN GIVE EXPRESSION TO NUCLEAR
ALLERGY. HOWEVER, SUMMIT COULD BECOME HOLLOW
RITUAL IF ONE LEADER KNOWS HE MUST LEAVE OFFICE SOON,
AND EXPOSURE OF TANAKA'S QUESTIONABLE FINANCIAL
DEALINGS, WHICH SUGGEST COMPARISON TO NIXON IN THROES
OF WATERGATE AGONY, HAS LED PARTY LEADERS TO DISCUSS
"TANAKA CRISIS."

STORIN (GLOBE) SEES TANAKA FIGHTING FOR POLITICAL LIFE
FOUR WEEKS BEFORE FORD VISIT. HURT BY STAGNANT ECONOMY
AND RECENT EXPOSE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS DEALINGS IN OFFICE,
PREMIER'S POLITICAL STRENGTH IS AT PRECARIOUS LEVEL.

MAINICHI PUBLIC OPINION POLL THIS MONTH PLACED TANAKA
SUPPORT AT RECORD LOW -- 18 PERCENT -- EVEN BEFORE
BUNGEI EXPOSE. MORE IMPORTANT IN JAPANESE CONTEXT,
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HOWEVER, ARE PRIVATE GRUMBLINGS IN RULING LDP ABOUT TANAKA LEADERSHIP. TANAKA APPEARS PLANNING CABINET RESHUFFLE TO CONCILIATE GRUMBLERS. HOWEVER, ONE LEGISLATOR REPORTED QUOTING PRIVATE TANAKA REMARK LAST FRIDAY -- "I THINK I MUST AT LEAST OVERSEE PREPARATIONS FOR FORD VISIT"-- WHICH STORIN INTERPRETS AS HINT OF POSSIBLE EARLY RESIGNATION.

MOUNTING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT TANAKA'S POLITICAL FUTURE DROPPED STOCK PRICES SHARPLY IN TOKYO MONDAY (WSJ);

225 STOCK INDEX FELL 132 POINTS EARLY IN DAY, BUT RECOVERED SLIGHTLY TO FINISH DOWN 99.9 POINTS. TURNOVER MODERATE (150 MILLION SHARES). SELLING, CARRIED OVER FROM LAST WEEK, NOT HELPED BY COLLAPSE OF SMALL TEXTILE FIRM. STEEL, SHIPBUILDING AND HEAVY ELECTRICAL SHARES HARDEST HIT, BUT ELECTRONICS (SONY, MATSUSHITA AND PIONEER) AND CALPIS GAINED IN BARGAIN HUNTING.

KIRK (CHITRIB), IN LAST OF SERIES, REPORTS FRIGHTENING INFLATION IS SHIFTING VOTERS TO LEFT, AND TRIGGERING NATIONAL DEBATE ABOUT GOJ ECONOMIC POLICIES. QUOTES LOCAL RESIDENTS IN ROPPONGI AREA OF TOKYO WHO OPPOSE AGGRESSIVE AND "VICIOUS" DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF LARGE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY TO BUY THEIR LAND TO MAKE ROOM FOR ANOTHER SKYSCRAPER. DEBATE EPITOMIZES PUBLIC DOUBTS ABOUT MAD DASH FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION, AT COST OF TRADITIONAL VALUES, WHICH GOVT ALMOST INVARIABLY SUPPORTED UNTIL RECENTLY AS SINE NON QUA OF NATIONAL SURVIVAL.

DEBATE OF WISDOM OF LDP-TANAKA RULE ASSUMES "OMINOUS OVERTONES" IN SPRAWLING URBAN DANCHI APARTMENT DEVELOPMENTS, WHERE HOUSEWIVES CONCERNED ABOUT INFLATION, CROWDED QUARTERS AND OVERCROWDED SCHOOLS, ARE BEING COURTED SUCCESSFULLY BY SOCIALISTS AND PARTICULARLY COMMUNISTS. CONCENTRATING ON PRAGMATIC ISSUES OF DAILY LIFE, UNEASY JSR JCP COALITION HAS SWEEPED CONSERVATIVES OUT OF POWER IN ALMOST EVERY MAJOR METROPOLITAN ADMINISTRATION IN RECENT YEARS, AND ACHIEVED NATIONAL SUCCESS IN JULY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION.

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NYT DURSO REPORTS TONGUE-IN-CHEEK THAT NYMETS TOUR DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS, WITH TEAM FAILING TO WIN FIRST TWO STARTS IN TOKYO (4 COLUMN AP WIREPHOTO).

UK SOCIETY OF MOTOR MFRS AND TRADERS PRES BROOKS

CALLS ON JAPAN AND OTHER WORLD CAR MAKERS ON EVE OF
TURIN MOTOR SHOW "TO SHARE CAKE - OR WE MUST TAKE
ACTION TO SEE THEY STOP NIBBLING AT OURS" (JOC).
AUTO TRADE WITH JAPAN SO HEAVILY WEIGHTED AGAINST
COMMON MARKET THAT BROOKS WONDERS AT "OUR MASOCHISM
IN CONTINUING TO PERMIT IT."

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

5. JAPAN

CSM SEES JAPAN TURNING NEW CHAPTER IN HER POLITICAL AND
ECON LIFE AS JSP AND JCP EXPLOIT ISSUES OF NUKES REPORTEDLY
BEING CARRIED INTO JAPANESE PORTS ABOARD US NAVAL WARSHIPS,
AND POLITICAL SCANDAL SURROUNDING TANAKA; FUELING GROWING
POLITICAL CRISIS IS STAGNANT ECONOMY AND CLIMBING INFLA-
TION. SEES JAPANESE LEFTISTS EXPLOITING ISSUE TO TRY
BLOCK PRES FORD'S VISIT NEXT MONTH, BUT DOESN'T THINK
THEY WILL SUCCEED. SAYS TANAKA'S POPULARITY HAS SUNK TO
18 PERCENT AND THERE IS GROWING AGITATION INSIDE LDP FOR
HIS REMOVAL; IF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR LONG-ENTRENCHED LDP
CONTINUES TO ERODE, JAPAN'S POLITICAL STABILITY COULD BE
THREATENED. GIVEN THIS VOLATILE SITUATION, JAPAN'S
FRIENDS WILL BE WATCHING WITH CONCERN, CSM CONCLUDES.

6. CHINA

CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY, EDITOR OF YALE DAILY NEWS AND ONE
OF GROUP OF STUDENT LEADERS VISITING CHINA LAST SUMMER,
WRITES OF HIS AND TWO COMPANIONS' UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS
TO SEE MAO (NYT). INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE237697
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740309-0725
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741092/abbrzaaf.tel
Line Count: 358
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCTOBER 29 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
TRSY
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005